

**PRESS
RELEASE**

Suffolk County Legislator, Twelfth District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 24, 2017

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Suffolk County Republican Legislators Request Attorney General to Mandate Deportations of Illegal Aliens Convicted of Gang-Related Crime

Hauppauge, NY - Due to the recent upsurge in MS-13 gang activities and alleged murders in Suffolk County, Suffolk County Legislature Minority Leader Kevin McCaffrey and his fellow Republican colleagues, Legislators Tom Cilmi, Leslie Kennedy, Tom Muratore and Thomas Barraga are unanimous in requesting US Attorney General Jeff Sessions to mandate the deportation of illegal aliens convicted of a felony and/or a gang related misdemeanor regardless if there is a hold on that person.

“While Suffolk County faces a range of challenges now and in the future, our first priority as legislators is and must be public safety,” said Legislator McCaffrey. “We need to do everything we can to eradicate the gangs in our communities and protect our young people and their families from the kinds of brutal crimes we have seen increase over the past year.”

Precious resources and time have been wasted in apprehending gang leaders due to the County Executive Steve Bellone’s decision to end the partnerships that existed with the Suffolk County Police Department and the FBI Task Force.

“This inaction by the Bellone administration goes beyond negligence and has been dangerous for Suffolk County,” said Legislator McCaffrey. “We are glad that Attorney General Sessions came to Suffolk County to provide the leadership and support we need to end the gang violence in our communities.”

Additionally, as representatives of communities across Suffolk County, the Republican Caucus has offered support and is urging all local law enforcement agencies to cooperate fully with the Federal Government to ensure that they are utilizing each and every resource available to the County to fight gang violence.

Doing so would communicate to gangs and citizens that everything is being done to protect Suffolk County communities and would also signal that Suffolk County is cooperating with the federal government to the fullest extent regarding gangs and illegal immigration, so it can continue to receive the more than \$10 million in federal funding that goes directly into criminal justice and law enforcement programs in Suffolk County.

“While it’s not the only answer, we believe that deportation of those here illegally who commit gang-related crimes is an essential part of the strategy to eradicate gangs in Suffolk County,” said Legislator Cilmi. “We also believe there should be stiffer penalties for those deported who re-enter the United States illegally. We look forward to working with Attorney General Sessions in this fight.”

“Suffolk County has unsurpassed local law enforcement, we have officers in our communities who know the lay of the land, and they are a vital tool in fighting this war against gang violence,” said Legislator Kennedy. “I urge all local law enforcement agencies to cooperate with the State and Federal authorities to put an end to MS-13 and all gang violence, so that we can protect the most vulnerable members of all our communities.”

The legislators have sent a letter to the US Attorney General to make their request known and to partner with him to work together to stop gangs from recruiting and victimizing unaccompanied minors to Long Island and to curtail their actions in Suffolk County.

For more information or comment, please contact:

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Legislator Thomas Barraga, District 11, 631-854-4100

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Suffolk County Legislator Leslie Kennedy represents the 12th Legislative District, encompassing Smithtown, Nesconset, Hauppauge, the Village of the Branch, Lake Grove, parts of Commack, Ronkonkoma, Lake Ronkonkoma and Centereach. Legislator Kennedy was born and raised on Long Island, is a former nurse and small business manager, and has dedicated her life towards the betterment of our community. She currently serves on the following Committees: Budget and Finance, Education and Human Services, Government Operations, Personnel, and Information Technology, Health, Parks & Recreation, Public Safety, and Veterans